(b) In the first round of bidding, PNGRB invited bids for six cities, namely, Kota, Sonipat, Mathura, Kakinada, Meerut and Dewas. GAIL Gas Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of GAIL (India) Ltd., has been selected for 4 cities. Bhagyanagar Gas Ltd. Joint Venture (JV) of GAIL (India) Ltd., and a private entity DSM Infra won authorization for one city each.

The bids received in the second round of bidding are under evaluation by PNGRB.

(c) The authorized entity gets marketing exclusivity for initial 5 years and it has to develop the network within that period. Complete primary distribution network, *i.e.*, Steel Grid pipelines, has to be commissioned in the initial five years of the Project. The secondary Distribution Network, *i.e.*, MDPE pipelines, for PNG connections to the households will be taken up simultaneously and it is an ongoing process. The entire project life is for 25 years.

Committee on gas allocation

3289. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new Committee on gas allocation has been set up by Government to look into Government's control in allocation of its own resources;

(b) if so, whether it analyses how the Central Government would do if it has no control on allocation of its own resources in the wake of court order;

(c) whether it has submitted its report, if so, by when it is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the Central Government has urged RIL to supply natural gas at 4.20 dollar per mmbtu to steel firms; and

(e) whether Government has finalized the details of KG basin gas supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government has directed the Contractor of KG D-6 fields, *viz.*, M/s. RIL and M/s. NIKO, to supply natural gas to various priority sector customers, including *Inter alia* existing gas-based steel plants, at the pricing formula approved by the Government. The price so approved is US$ 4.20 per mmbtu in accordance with a pricing formula approved by the Government.

(e) The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) constituted to decide issues regarding pricing and commercial utilization of natural gas produced under New Exploration Licencing Policy (NELP) has *Inter alia* taken decisions regarding commercial utilization of the initial 40 mmscmd gas to be produced from KG D-6. Further, certain decisions have also been taken regarding commercial utilisation of gas production beyond the initial 40 mmscmd.